



Navigating Your Way Through COVID-19 Support Grants

The deepening of COVID-19 pandemic has taken a toll on global economy as local businesses are beginning to feel the brunt of the pain. To cushion the impact for businesses and SMEs, the Government has since unveiled several measures and financial aid programmes in the last three budgets announced. Here's your guide to help you navigate through the grants available.

IF YOUR ORGANIZATION IS FACING CASH FLOW PROBLEMS

(A) SELF-EMPLOYED PERSONS (SEP) INCOME RELIEF SCHEME

Direct Cash Support

Eligibility Criteria

- All Singaporean SEPs who meet the following criteria:
 - Start work as a SEP on or before 25 March 2020
 - Do not earn / earn small income as an employee
 - Earn net trade income of no more than \$100,000
 - Live in property with annual value of no more than \$21,000
 - Do not own 2 or more properties
- For married SEPs:
 - Individual and spouse together do not own 2 or more properties



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- Assessable income of his / her spouse does not exceed \$70,000

Assistance

- Receive \$9,000 over 9 months

Application not required for SEPs aged 37 and over in 2020 who declared positive SEP income to IRAS or CPF Board for 2018.

NTUC Training Fund (SEPs)

Under the NTUC Training Fund (SEPs), SEPs will get paid an allowance of up to \$8.50/hour when they attend courses under the SkillsFuture Series, as well as selected sector-specific training programmes.



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(B) JOBS SUPPORT SCHEME

Wage Support

Eligibility Criteria

- All employers who have made CPF contributions for their SC and PR employees will qualify (some employer exclusion)
- Shareholder-directors with assessable income of \$100,000 or less for YA 2019 are also eligible

Assistance

- Government co-fund first \$4,600 of gross monthly wages paid to each local employee for 9 months (different tiers of support for different sectors)
- For the months of April and May 2020, support will be topped up to 75% for all sectors
- Businesses not allowed to resume operations will continue to receive 75% wage support until August 2020 or when allowed to reopen, whichever is earlier

Application not required (IRAS will notify eligible employers)



- Covers specific contracts such as commercial & industrial property leases, construction & supply contracts, event & tourism related contracts and certain secured loan facilities

Assistance

- Provide cash-flow relief to businesses and individuals in specific types of contracts who are unable to fulfil contractual obligations because of COVID-19, by suspending certain actions to enforce those obligations for 6 months

Bill expected to be in effect mid-April. Notification for relief to be issued to the other party of the contract

(E) CORPORATE INCOME TAX (CIT) REBATE

Eligibility Criteria

All companies

Assistance

- CIT rebate of 25% of tax payable, capped at \$15,000 for YA2020
- Automatic extension of interest-free instalments of 2 months of payment of CIT on ECI filed within 3 months from financial year end
- Allow unabsorbed capital allowances and trade losses for YA2020 to be carried back up to 3 immediate preceding YAs, instead of 1 preceding YA
- Provide option to accelerate write-off of cost of acquiring plant and machinery
- Provide option to accelerate the deduction of expenses incurred on renovation and refurbishment



(C) WAGE CREDIT SCHEME

Wage Increases Support

Eligibility Criteria

All employers who give wage increases to SC employees will qualify (subject to certain conditions) (some employer exclusion)

Assistance

- Government co-funding ratios for wage increases in 2019 and 2020 raised from current 15% and 10%, to 20% and 15% respectively.
- Qualifying gross wage ceiling raised to \$5,000 for both years, up from the current \$4,000

Application not required (IRAS will notify eligible employers)



(D) COVID-19 (TEMPORARY MEASURES) BILL

Eligibility Criteria

- Covers obligations to be performed on or after 1 February 2020 which are affected by reason of COVID-19 for contracts entered into before 25 March 2020



(F) DEFERMENT OF INCOME TAX PAYMENTS

Eligibility Criteria

All companies and SEPs

Assistance

- Automatically defer income tax payments for 3 months
 - For companies - payments due in April, May and June collected from July 2020
 - For SEPs - payments due in May, June, July collected from August 2020



(G) PROPERTY TAX REBATE

Eligibility Criteria

Qualifying non-residential properties

Assistance

- 100% rebate for qualifying commercial properties
- 60% rebate for the Integrated Resorts
- 30% rebate for other non-residential properties



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Assistance

4 months rental waiver for commercial tenants in government properties and 2 months rental waiver for other non-residential tenants

For SME tenants in private non-residential properties

Eligibility Criteria

- SME tenants (not more than \$100 million in annual turnover)
- Qualifying leases or licenses commencing before 25 March 2020

Assistance

Including Property Tax Rebate for 2020,

- 2 months' rental will be offset for qualifying SME tenants of commercial properties
- 1 month's rental will be offset for qualifying SME tenants of industrial and office properties

(H) RENTAL WAIVERS

Eligibility Criteria

- Eligible commercial and social sector tenants in government properties
- Tenancies do not exceed 3 years
- Do not pay property tax



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IF THE ABOVE MEASURE ARE NOT SUFFICIENT, CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING FINANCIAL SCHEMES

(A) ENTERPRISE FINANCING SCHEME - TRADE LOAN

Enhanced help for trade financing needs

Eligibility Criteria

- Registered and operating in Singapore
- Minimum of 30% local shareholding
- Maximum Borrower Group revenue cap of \$500 million for all enterprises

Assistance

- Maximum loan quantum increase from \$5 million to \$10 million
- Risk-share from Government increase from 50-70% to 90% for new applicants initiated from 8 April 2020 until 31 March 2021



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- Minimum of 30% local shareholding
- Maximum Borrower Group revenue cap of \$500 million for all enterprises.
- Group revenue of up to \$100 million or maximum employment of 200 employees

Assistance

- Maximum loan quantum increase from \$0.3 million to \$1 million
- Risk-share from Government increase from 50-70% to 90% for new applications initiated from 8 April 2020 until 31 March 2021
- May request for deferment of principal repayment for 1 year, subject to assessment by participating financial institutions

(B) ENTERPRISE FINANCING SCHEME - SME WORKING CAPITAL LOAN

Eligibility Criteria

- Business entity registered and physically present in Singapore



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(C) MAS AND FINANCIAL INDUSTRY SUPPORT SCHEME

Support SMEs with access to bank credit and insurance cover



Eligibility Criteria

SMEs that continue to pay interest and are in good standing with their banks and finance companies (for deferment of loan payments)

Assistance

- May opt to defer principal payments on secured term loan
- Assistance with insurance premium payment

(D) TEMPORARY BRIDGING LOAN PROGRAMME

Provide access to working capital for business needs



Eligibility Criteria

- Business entity registered and physically present in Singapore
- Minimum of 30% local shareholding
- Cover all sectors

Assistance

- Maximum support loan of \$5 million, with interest rate capped at 5% p.a.
- Government provides 90% risk-share on loans initiated from 8 April 2020 until 31 March 2021
- May request for deferment of principal repayment for 1 year, subject to assessment by participating financial institutions

(E) LOAN INSURANCE SCHEME

Secure short-term trade financing loans



Eligibility Criteria

- Business entity registered and physically present in Singapore
- Minimum of 30% local shareholding
- Group revenue of up to \$100 million or maximum employment of 200 employees

Assistance

- Subsidy for loan insurance premium increase to 80%

IF YOUR ORGANIZATION IS FACING PROBLEMS WITH EXCESS STAFF

(A) WORK-LIFE GRANT

Grants to implement flexible work arrangements



Eligibility Criteria

Employers who implement flexible work arrangements for local employees (regular employees on permanent or a minimum employment contract term of 12 months)

Assistance

- Receive lump-sum grant to implement flexible work arrangements or job sharing for local employees
- Sector specific resources developed to facilitate implementation of flexiwork arrangements

(B) TEMPORARY SCHEMES TO MANAGE MANPOWER

Flexibility to manage manpower needs

Companies with excess manpower can transfer their work permit holders to other companies quickly and companies facing shortage can tap on bigger pool of experienced work permit holders

Assistance

- Allow inter-sectoral transfer of foreign workers for all sectors
- Allow transfer of foreign workers whose work permits are nearing expiry for all sectors



(D) ALTERNATIVES TO RETRENCHMENT

Consider alternatives to keep business viable and support employees

- Redeploy employees to alternative areas of work within the company
- Implement flexible work schedule, flexible work arrangements, shorter work-week, or temporary layoff
- Adjust wages in line with tripartite norms
- Implement no-pay leave



(C) TRAINING EMPLOYEES TO UPGRADE SKILLS AND EMPLOYABILITY

Consider SSG training grants for employers to upskill and/or reskill your employees

Eligibility Criteria

- All companies registered or incorporated in Singapore
- Trainee on the approved course is a SC or PR
- Trainee must be employed by the applicant company
- For all other detailed eligibility criteria, please scan the above QR code

Assistance

- Enhanced Training Support for SMEs
 - SMEs receive up to 90% of the course fees when they sponsor their employees to attend courses supported by SSG
 - Enhanced Absentee Payroll (AP)
- Funding: SMEs may claim AP funding of 80% of basic hourly salary at a higher cap of \$7.50 per hour
- Non-SMEs
 - Non-SMEs receive up to 70% (or up to 90% for mid-career workers) of the course fees when they sponsor their employees to attend courses supported by SSG
 - Absentee Payroll Funding: Non-SMEs may claim AP funding of 80% of basic hourly salary at a cap of \$4.50 per hour



WORST-CASE SCENARIO: RESPONSIBLE RETRENCHMENT

If you are in the worst-case scenario and looking for guidance to responsible retrenchment



IF YOUR ORGANIZATION IS THINKING OF DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION FOR NOW AND FUTURE

SME: GOOD TO HAVE EXTERNAL CONSULTANT'S HELP TO GO DIGITAL

(A) VISIT SME CENTRE

Eligibility Criteria

All SMEs

Assistance

- Free one-to-one business diagnosis and advisory services in areas like productivity, finance, human resources, and overseas expansion
- Includes advisory on digitalization with the SMEs Go Digital programme - identifying suitable digital solutions and training based on sector-specific Industry Digital Plans (IDP)
- Capability workshops
- Group-based upgrading projects for businesses in the same trade and vicinity



(B) VISIT SME DIGITAL TECH HUB

Eligibility Criteria

All SMEs

Assistance

- Provides specialised digital technology advisory to SMEs with more advanced digital needs, such as data analytics and cyber-security
- SMEs can visit any of the SME Centres to get started. Advisors at the SME Centres will provide basic advice on the IMDA-approved solutions and refer them to the SME Digital Tech Hub for assistance on more advanced needs



SMP: GOOD TO HAVE EXTERNAL CONSULTANT'S HELP TO GO DIGITAL

(A) VISIT ISCA SMP CENTRE

The Small and Medium-sized Practices (SMP) Centre is a dedicated, one-stop virtual platform of information, tools and services to help SMPs build productive and competitive businesses

For advisory on digitalization of your firm or other SMP related enquiries, please complete the consultation form



DO NOT NEED EXTERNAL CONSULTANT'S HELP TO GO DIGITAL

(A) STAY HEALTHY, GO DIGITAL: DIGITAL SOLUTIONS DIRECTORY

Jointly curated by IMDA and SGTech, the Directory lists solutions that SMEs need for business continuity amid COVID-19, across several key categories:

- Remote Working
- Visitor Management
- Bill and Pay Online
- Sell Online
- Others

Some of these solutions are free, some are supported by PSG, some come with limited time offers by the solution providers.

The "Stay Healthy, Go Digital" landing page also has other relevant resources for SMEs: training resources, explanation of other government assistance, e.g. E-invoicing Registration Grant.



(B) PRODUCTIVITY SOLUTIONS GRANT (PSG)

Eligibility Criteria

- Registered and operating in Singapore
- Purchase/lease/subscription of the IT solutions or equipment must be used in Singapore
- (Selected solutions only) An SME with minimum 30% local shareholding; AND Company's Group annual sales turnover less than \$100 million, OR less than 200 employees



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Assistance

Maximum of 80% grant for pre-approved solutions under the SMEs Go Digital programme (80% support is valid till 31 Dec 2020, 70% thereafter)

Scan the QR code above for reference to sector-specific IDPs for a step-by-step guide on the sector-specific digital solutions and training that meet your needs

Select PSG-supported solutions based on the needs identified in the IDPs



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(C) ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT GRANT (EDG)

Eligibility Criteria

- Registered and operating in Singapore
- Minimum of 30% local shareholding
- Be in a financially viable position to start and complete the project



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Assistance

Maximum of 80% grant on qualifying project costs namely third party consultancy fees, software and equipment, and internal manpower cost

For enterprises that are most severely impacted by COVID-19, the maximum support level may be raised to 90% on a case-by-case basis

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